

Abstract

The Master's thesis examines the phenomenon of electronic elections in the definition of an alternative method of remote voting via the Internet and combines the approach of a survey paper and a case study. The theoretical basis of the thesis is a description of the concept of e-democracy, postal voting and electronic elections, a definition of the typology of this alternative method and the accentuated risks, a summary of the general development of the debate in the Czech environment and an analysis of the process of the initial phase of implementation of electronic elections in the electoral systems of Estonia, Norway and Switzerland. The theoretical background is followed by an analytical section on these selected countries, which examines the characteristics of case-by-case approaches to the implementation and risks of e-elections and the potential impacts on selected indicators such as voter turnout and global state of democracy indices. The analysis of the aspects is conducted in a consecutive and separate categorical framework, whereby the issues are viewed from the specific perspectives of the countries in question, taking into account the differences in political systems. Final implications and conclusions are drawn in the context of a higher level of relevance based on a comparison of the individual findings. Potential perspectives on the implementation of e-voting depend on the specific approaches and uniqueness of the countries in question, and thus no universally applicable rule can be presented. However, the research in this thesis shows that although a positive effect on voter turnout cannot be declared, the implementation of electronic elections correlates with an increase in the proportion of voters voting electronically and the often-emphasized risks are effectively mitigated. The final findings of the thesis depict a probable negative impact on the index of credible elections, as well as a rigid attitude of the Czech debate towards alternative voting methods. As a result, the thesis formulates and analyses the phenomenon of electronic voting, verifies the effects of the implementation of this alternative method in the cases of Estonia, Norway and Switzerland, reflects on the potential of this phenomenon on a general scale and in the context of the debate conducted in the Czech environment, and offers a wide scope for prospective future research.